Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
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PRESS RELEASE

The protest against the ad-hoc appointment of Gajendra Chauhan as Chairman of FTII entered its 7th day today as over 50 FTII Alumni came to FTII to stand in Solidarity with FTII students. The Alumni and students discussed at future course of action in the wake of ministry's response to our earlier letter. It has been decided that we would seek an appointment from the ministry in order to present our charter of demands. The issue of granting FTII a status of Centre of Excellence shall be one of the main demands. The strike will continue till then.

In solidarity with our cause, protests were held in Kochi & Hyderabad.

Background –

The students at FTII entered an indefinite strike on 12th June, in a resolve to protect institutional autonomy in the light of certain appointments made for the FTII Society. The appointment of Mr Chauhan as the Chairman, a person of inadequate credentials over-riding eminent professionals like Gulzar and Jahnu Barua, and other appointments made in the Governing council are questionable. Their political affiliations and a certain slant in their body of work seem anomalous to the nature of the Institute and puts a question on the process of appointment itself.

It is no secret that such irrational and high-handed appointments across cultural think-tanks have been taking place since the present government has come to power. Examples abound from such appointments made at IITB, IIM, NFDC, CBFC, MCRC in the recent past, and now FTII. The appointment of the Chairman and the other four members makes us apprehensive of vested interests interfering in cultural spaces.

We have been receiving consistent support from the film fraternity from names like Adoor Gopalkrishnan, Girish Kasavaralli, Anand Patwardhan, Sriram Raghavan, Rakesh Sharma, Ajitha Suchitraveera, Hansal Mehta and many more standing by us. Student bodies such as SRFTII, AISA, JNSU, TISS, Jadhavpur University, NSD and several others have joined hands with us, some even holding marches and shutdowns for our cause.

Please continue to support and join us for the cause.

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